

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 BIB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /123 W
-----057222 261213Z /13/15

R 251505Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5206
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (E.O., TAGS, SUBJECT LINES ADDED)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CSCE, GW, CZ
SUBJECT: FRG AMBASSADOR DIESEL COMMENTS ON HUSAK VISIT

REFS A. BONN 7124, B. BONN 6874, C. PRAGUE 0967

1. SUMMARY: MOST IMPORTANT POINT TO COME OUT OF BRIEFING
WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR JUERGEN DIESEL GAVE ME ON RECENT HUSAK VISIT T
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O
BONN WAS THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, POSSIBLY IN AN ATTEMPT
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE BREZHNEV VISIT, EXPRESSED TO HUSAK HIS
SUPPORT FOR A HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY. TRADE ALSO
EMPHASIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR DIESEL, CHANCELLOR HELMUT

SCHMIDT CAUSED SOME FRG MINISTERIAL JAWS TO DROP BY ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXPRESSING HIS SUPPORT FOR A HIGH-LEVEL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENERGY TO PRESIDENT HUSAK DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO BONN (REFTELS). THE OTHER TWO TOPICS PROPOSED BY SOVIETS FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT, ALSO CAME UP IN DISCUSSION BUT SCHMIDT DID NOT BACK THEM, EXCEPT TO SUPPORT ON-GOING ECE STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENT.

3. HUSAK'S MEETINGS WITH FRG LEADERS - DIESEL TOLD US CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, IN ADDITION TO ON-THE-RECORD TALKS, HELD AN OFF-THE-RECORD SESSION WITH PRESIDENT HUSAK WHICH LASTED FOUR HOURS. DIESEL CLAIMED NOT TO HAVE BEEN BRIEFED ON DISCUSSIONS. HUSAK TOLD DIESEL ON RETURN FLIGHT TO PRAGUE THAT TALKS WITH FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS HAD GONE WELL FOCUSING LARGELY ON BAVARIAN PROBLEMS AND APPARENTLY DID NOT TOUCH HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. ON THE OTHER HAND CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL ONLY RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO RECEIVE HUSAK ON UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD INCLUDE ON BREZHNEV PROGRAM. HUSAK AGREED TO KOHL SENDING HIM A LETTER ON HUMANITARIAN CASES. THE MEETING WITH GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS ATTRACTED AN UNUSUALLY GOOD TURNOUT AND WENT WELL. HUSAK PROMISED THAT GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS WOULD HAVE DIRECT ACCESS TO CZECHOSLOVAK ENTERPRISE OFFICIALS WHO WOULD ALSO HAVE MORE DISCRETION IN DEALING WITH HARD CURRENCY MATTERS . INDUSTRIALISTS WELCOMED THIS BUT ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL.

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4. DIESEL SAID HUSAK SEEMED IN GOOD PHYSICAL SHAPE EXCEPT FOR HIS EYES. HE HAS TO BE HELPED TO NEGOTIATE STAIRS AND HAS DIFFICULTY READING. DIESEL BELIEVES THAT HUSAK IS BEING TREATED BY A FRG DOCTOR BUT ALLEGED NOT TO KNOW HIS NAME.

5. CSCE-ACCORDING TO DIESEL, FRG REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK VISITORS THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT BY ONE SIGNATORY COUNTRY IS NOT SOLELY AN INTERNAL MATTER, BUT IS OF LEGITIMATE INTEREST TO ALL SIGNATORIES. SPECIFICALLY, THEY STRESSED THAT THE CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS ARE OF CONCERN TO THE FRG PUBLIC. AS LONG AS SESSIONS WERE NOT PUBLIC, CZECHOSLOVAKS WERE RELAXED IN DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROMISED BETTER TREATMENT FOR GERMAN JOURNALISTS. THE CZECHOSLOVAKS ALSO RESPONDED BY POINTING OUT THAT IMPRISONED JOURNALIST JIRI LEDERER HAS BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE CZECHOSLOVAKIA IF HE CHOOSES TO DO SO. WILLY BRANDT, IN THIS CONNECTION, BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF WHETHER LEDERER WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETAIN HIS CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENSHIP. WITH REGARD TO THE 1980 MADRID CSCE REVIEW MEETING, SCHMIDT SUGGESTED CONDITIONS MIGHT PERMIT ITS BEING HELD AT "POLITICAL" LEVEL. (WE ASSUME IMPLICATION HERE IS THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS MIGHT OPEN AND/ O

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CLOSE THE MADRID TALKS.)

6. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT
CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEXT YEAR, BUT EXACT DATE IS NOT SET.

7. THE CZECHS WERE IMPRESSED AT EVERY STOP; FOREIGN MINISTER
CHNOUPEK PARTICULARLY WITH THE INDUSTRY ALONG THE RHINE,
AND THE OTHERS WITH THE PORT OF HAMBURG, WHICH DIESEL REPORTED
WAS FULL, IRONICALLY, OF CHINESE SHIPS.

8. DIESEL STRESSED SEVERAL TIMES THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT
MISINTERPRET FRG MOTIVES "AS AN EMBRACE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA" BUT RATHER
VIEW VISIT "AS FRG CONTRIBUTION TO FURTHERING DETENTE BY FACING UP
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TO ITS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR CENTRAL EUROPE."

9. DECONTROL AFTER FOUR YEARS OF ORIGINATING DATE.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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